

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 SAM-01 EB-03 DRC-01 /059 W

----- 059071

R 091610Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4065

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, US

SUBJ: BLACK AFRICAN VIEWS OF US INFLUENCE ON

SOUTH AFRICA RE RHODESIA

REF: STATE 210056 AND 214655 (NOTAL,) USUN 3502 (NOTAL) AND

3667 (NOTAL, LUSAKA 2049

1. I HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES HAVE BEEN VOICING (E.G., IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM) THEIR BELIEF THAT USG CAN AND SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA. PARTICULAR MENTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO CONVINCE SAG TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM RHODESIA. WHILE MANY AFRICAN LEADERS ARE PROBABLY UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT OUR INFLUENCE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS IS MUCH LESS THAN THEY BELIEVE, THERE IS ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESENCE IN RHODESIA WHICH AFRICANS PROBABLY HAVE NOT CONSIDERED AND WHICH ADDRESSEES MAY FIND USEFUL TO MENTION IN TALKS WITH THEM.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH HIGH LEVEL SAG OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA VERY MUCH WANTS TO SEE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM. THEY EMPHASIZE THAT SOUTH AFRICA

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WOULD HAVE NO SERIOUS PROBLEM IN COEXISTING WITH A MODERATE BLACK

GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA. SOUTH AFRICANS, MOREOVER, ARE AWARE THAT IAN SMITH REGIME CANNOT HOLD OUT INDEFINITELY AND IS BOUND TO LOSE MILITARY STRUGGLE.

3. DESPITE THESE VIEWS, THESE OFFICIALS SAY SOUTH AFRICAN CANNOT SIMPLY BRING ITS POLICE HOME FROM RHODESIA. SAG IS FACED WITH A DILEMMA. IT WANTS TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN RHODESIA, BUT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS FEELS IT CANNOT AFFORD TO DO SO UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. SAG LEADERS BELIEVE THAT WITHDRAWAL OF SA POLICE FROM RHODESIA WOULD BE CONDEMNED BY MANY SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES WHO WOULD SEE IT AS VIOLATION OF TRUST AND BETRAYAL OF KITH AND KIN IN RHODESIA. WITHDRAWAL ALSO COULD RAISE FEARS AMONG WHITES IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT SAG'S DETERMINATION TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FUTURE.

4. THIS IS A SUBJECT WE MAY WISH TO EXPLORE FURTHER DURING MEETING OF CHIEFS OF MISSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM IN LUSAKA NEXT MONTH.
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0677
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzud.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 210056 AND 214655 (NOTAL,) USU, N 3502 (NOTAL) AND
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACK AFRICAN VIEWS OF US INFLUENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA RE RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005